

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14, 16, 18-34, 36 and 38-42 are pending in this patent application. The Office Action mailed Aug. 31, 2004 indicated that:

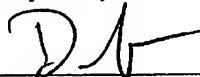
- Claim 42 is allowable;
- Claims 11-14, 19, 31-34 and 39 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims; and
- Claims 1-10, 16, 18, 20-30, 36, 38 and 40-41 are rejected on various grounds.

In response, the present Amendment cancels the rejected claims (1-10, 16, 18, 20-30, 36, 38 and 40-41) and presents the objected-to claims in independent form, as suggested in the Action.

No new matter has been added. Support for the Amendment is found in the application as filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to allow the claims and pass the application through to issuance. Should questions arise, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned.

**Payment of Fees by Deposit Account:** The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any additional claim fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16(b), or any other required fee, or credit any overpayments, to the Gesmer Updegrave USPTO Deposit Account No. 122315.

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Jacobs  
Reg. No. 31,770  
Gesmer Updegrave LLP  
40 Broad Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Tel: (617) 350-6800  
Fax: (617) 350-6878

Date: Nov. 24, 2004